

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-10

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DRAFTED BY IO/TRC:CJGRIP:BAS

APPROVED BY IO/TRC - CARL J. GRIP

USTS - D. EDGELL (SUBS)

EA/PHL - B FLECK

EUR/EE - H. GILMORE

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R 312253Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, ETRD, RP, WTO

SUBJECT: WTO HEADQUARTERS

REF: MANILA 3871

1. DEPARTMENT DOES NOT WISH EMBASSY TO RESPOND ON SUB-
STATIVE ASPECTS OF GOP NOTE OFFERING MANILA AS HEADQUARTERS
SITE OF WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION (WTO) BEYOND ACKNOWLEDG-
MENT OF NOTE.

2. FYI. WTO HAS COME ABOUT FROM TRANSFORMATION OF NON-
GOVERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OFFICIAL TRAVEL OFFICES
(IUOTO) WITH COMING INTO FORCE OF WTO STATUTES NOVEMBER 1,
1974 FOLLOWING DEPOSIT OF 51ST RATIFICATION. (US HAS NOT
YET DEPOSITED RATIFICATION.) WTO WILL HOLD FIRST ASSEMBLY
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IN MADRID IN MAY AND QUESTION OF SITE OF PERMANENT HEAD-

QUARTERS WILL BE CONSIDERED THEN. IUOTO HEADQUARTERS IS IN GENEVA AND WILL SERVE AS PROVISIONAL SITE OF WTO HEAD-QUARTERS UNTIL PERMANENT SITE SELECTED BY TWO-THIRDS DECISION OF ASSEMBLY.

3. AS NUMBER OF SITES HAVE BEEN OFFERED (MEXICO CITY, GENEVA, MADRID, NEW DELHI, ISTANBUL, ZAGREB), TWO-THIRDS SUPPORT FOR A SINGLE CANDIDATE MAY NOT MATERIALIZE AT FIRST

ASSEMBLY, IN WHICH CASE GENEVA WILL REMAIN PROVISIONAL SITE. DAKAR WAS OFFERED BUT WITHDRAWN (POSSIBLY IN DEFERENCE TO MEXICO CITY CANDIDACY), AND OTHER SITES HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED INFORMALLY, BUT WITHOUT STATE SPONSORSHIP AS YET.

4. PRESIDENT HAS COMMITTED THE US TO SUPPORT ZAGREB, HAVING MADE COMMITMENT TO PRESIDENT TITO DURING A VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA. US INTENDS TO MAINTAIN THIS COMMITMENT SO LONG AS ZAGREB APPEARS TO BE VIABLE CANDIDATE. IF IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT THE ZAGREB CANDIDACY IS UNLIKELY TO SUCCEED, US WILL BE PREPARED TO PUT FORWARD AND SUPPORT CANDIDACY OF HONOLULU.

5. WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, USSR, EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, AND CANADA SUPPORT RETENTION OF GENEVA. MEXICO HAS CAMPAIGNED HARD TO HAVE MEXICO CITY SELECTED, APPEARS TO HAVE BROAD SUPPORT OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, AND CLAIMS TO HAVE WON SUPPORT FROM A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OUTSIDE OF THAT REGION.

6. GIVEN US POSITION ON QUESTION (PARA 4 ABOVE) AND CONFUSED PICTURE WHICH COMPETING CANDIDACIES WILL PRESENT TO FIRST ASSEMBLY, DEPARTMENT DOES NOT WISH TO BE DRAWN FURTHER INTO DEBATE ON QUESTION. END FYI. KISSINGER

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